Efforts should be made for the proper preservation of the papers and their access to scholars for purposes of research rather than on their acquisition. Gujarat State Archives is also making a serious effort through the newly constituted Regional Records Survey Committee to locate and list the documents available with the former princely families and individuals. However, the state Archives can be requested to give this matter priority in their development programme and pursuade the princes to deposit their papers in the state repository. If they are not willing to part with their papers, they should allow a microfilm copy to be prepared for the use of scholars and kept in the state archives.

B. Compilation and publication of selection from Records of the Central and State Governments

(2) Resolution by Dr. V.D.Divekar

"Resolved that the National Archives of India be requested to take up the work of compiling and publishing a complete union catalogue of all the "Selections from Records" of the Government of India and all the State Governments published so far; and that a microfilm copy of the texts of all these Selections be prepared and made available at the National Archives and other centres for the use of research scholars."

Explanatory note

Selections from Records of various governments in India constitute an important source material for economic, social, political and administrative histories

of India. The first Selection from Records was published in four volumes as long back as in 1820-1826 by the East India Company. Since the 1850's this activity was taken up on a regular basis by various governments. It is estimated that by now about 1700 'Selections' have been published and the publishing activity is progressing steadily thanks to the active interest taken by various archival centres in the country. Unfortunately, so far, no single catalogue covering all these Selections is available to the scholars. Selections published upto 1901 have been recorded in a publication, viz., Catalogue of Selections from Records available in the Imperial Library (Calcutta, 1901). This catalogue is almost exhaustive. Since then, however, no similar comprehensive effort is undertaken for works published in the twentieth century. For the Economic History Bibliography Project of the Gokhale Institute, Poona, a check-list of all Selections relating to economic history has been prepared -but then the list has its own limitations. The National Archives of India, therefore, would be a proper organization to undertake this work and carry it out successfully.

It is also necessary that all the 'Selections' are made available at one place to interested research workers, which requires a microfilming programme. The Irish University Press, Dublin, has microfilmed important British Parliamentary Papers in a series of 1000 volumes, out of which only 22 volumes relate to India. But they have not taken up Selections from Records of India in

their programme. Instead of relying on some foreign agency in this type of work, it would be proper if the National Archives takes up this work, so that it could be more comprehensive, thorough and perfect in its execution.

Standing Committee's views:

The proposal has already been included in the recommendations made by the Expert Committee of Librarians appointed by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Department of Culture, New Delhi, under the scheme "Publication of Descriptive and Analytical Catalogue of the holdings of the National Archives of India Library". The proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Department of Culture and Ministry of Finance. However, the card catalogue of all the newly published selections from records received from different States have already been prepared in the National Archives of India and placed in the dictionary catalogue of the Library for consultation of the research scholars.

The National Archives of India will be willing to prepare the microfilm copy of these selections as and when required by any research centre. National Archives of India is also making every effort to fill in the gaps in their series by acquiring [illegible] copies from the State Governments etc.

The draft Resolution, therefore, appears unnecessary.